

Story #519 (Tape #71, 1961-62)

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The Silly Women and the Family Gifts

A poor man had three daughters that no one would marry because of their poverty. One day when the eldest was returning from work in the fields, she sat down by the roadside and began to cry because of her bad fortune.

Her mother and sisters waited for her at home, but she did not come. Finally the second daughter was sent to see what her sister was doing. She went and found her sister sitting by the road and crying. When she learned the reason, she also started crying.

After waiting for some time, the mother was worried about both daughters and she sent the youngest to find out what had happened to the two sisters. When she went, she found her sisters sitting by the road and crying. When she learned the reason, she also started crying.

Finally the mother decided to go and search for her daughters herself. When she went, she found the three daughters sitting by the road and crying. When she learned the reason, she joined them and began to cry.

All four of them came home at last. They had two oxen, one of which they killed as kurban.¹ The father had gone to a distant town, and when he returned home that day he found the cauldron filled with meat.

"Where did you get this meat?"

"Oh, we killed one of the oxen in sacrifice because my daughters were lost and later returned home safely. If you had been here, you would have killed both oxen, but we killed only one."

¹Just a sacrifice, not necessarily for Kurban Bayram, the Festival of Sacrifices.

The man got very angry with his wife and decided to desert his family. He left home, saying, "I will not come back unless I can find a more stupid woman than you."

This man came to İzmir one day. He went to a hotel and got himself a room. There was an old woman staying in the hotel, and one day she asked, "Where do you come from, Son?"

Inclute from Hell on return with gifts for aged female relative

"From the bottom of Hell."

"Ah, do you! Did you see my Mehmet there?"

"Oh, are you Mehmet's mother? If you are, you should know that Mehmet is miserable down there. He has nothing to wear, and no money."

She asked the man to come into her room, and she gave him her husband's suit of clothes, some money, and a loaf of bread and asked him to take her selâms to her son in Hell. Now, the man was worried because if the woman's husband came home and found out about him, it could be very bad for him.

Soon the husband did come home, and he said, "Bring me my other clothes. I'll put them on and go to the marketplace."

"Oh, but I heard [from a man] that our Mehmet was in Hell and in need of clothes, and so I sent them to him. In fact, I sent him some money, too."

"Are you crazy? Where did that fellow go?"

The man put on his boots and mounted his horse and set out after the thief. The thief looked back and saw the woman's husband. He didn't know what to do. He saw a farmer in the field nearby. "Selâmünaleyküm."

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"Aleykümselâm."

"Hey, Father. See that fellow riding this way?"

"Yes."

"Do you know that that man wants bald heads?"

"No."

"Well, he wants bald heads. Do you also know that they want specimens of bald heads in Ankara?"

The farmer climbed up a tree, and the thief started plowing like a farmer.

The pursuer said, "Selâmunaleyküm."

"Aleykümselâm."

"There was a man here. Where has he gone?"

"He went up that tree."

The pursuer took off his boots and started to climb the tree, and while he was there, the thief took the boots, mounted his horse, and rode away.

The pursuer returned home, where his wife asked him, "Well, have you recovered the suit?"

"No. He had forgotten to take boots, and I gave them to him to take along."